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Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02872 302327Z

70
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 CU-04 /057 W
---------- 119068
R 302243Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0891
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 2872

FOR: ARA/PAF/BELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN PRESS SEMINAR

REF: A-2198 MARCH 8, 1974

1. RECOMMEND THAT YOU STRONGLY SUGGEST TO CATES OF CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS THAT LATIN AMERICAN PRESS SEMINAR STICK TO ITS ORIGINAL SCHEDULE OF FLYING FROM GUAYAQUIL TO QUITO ON MONDAY, MAY 13, INSTEAD OF COMING OVER-LAND IN BUS. THIS RECOMMENDATION BACKED UP BY QUITO COORDINATOR VACAS GOMEZ OF EL COMERCIO.

2. IF GROUP COMES OVERLAND, MONDAY WILL BE COMPLETELY LOST FOR SCHEDULING IN QUITO BECAUSE OF EIGHT-HOUR DRIVE FROM GUAYAQUIL OVER DIFFICULT ROADS. GROUP WILL ARRIVE IN LATE AFTERNOON AND TOO TIRED FOR RECEPTION PLANNED THAT EVENING AT THE RESIDENCE.

3. GROUP HAS THREE ALTERNATIVES AND WE SUGGEST THE FIRST ONE:
(A) KEEP TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE, WHICH WILL ALLOW A BRIEFING AT EMBASSY AND RECEPTION AT THE RESIDENCE, A TRIP TO TEXACO-GULF OIL FIELD, MEETING WITH ECUADOREAN JOURNALISTS AT EL COMERCIO, INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER AND BRIEF TOUR OF COLONIAL CITY.
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(B) IF GROUP COMES OVERLAND, IT WILL HAVE ONLY ONE DAY IN

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QUITO. GROUP LEAVES 0845 THURSDAY, MAY 15. IF PLANNED TRIP TO OIL FIELD TAKES PLACE, THAT WILL LEAVE ONLY ONE AFTERNOON IN QUITO AND TIME ONLY FOR MEETING AT EL COMERCIO AND POSSIBLE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER.
(C) IF THE GROUP COMES OVERLAND BUT CANCELS TRIP TO OIL FIELD IN ORDER TO HAVE A FULL DAY IN QUITO, THIS WOULD GIVE TIME FOR BRIEFING, INTERVIEWS WITH THE TWO MINISTERS, MEETING AT EL COMERCIO, BRIEFING AT EMBASSY AND RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TRIP OVERLAND FROM GUAYAQUIL NOT WORTH TAKING A FULL DAY OF GROUP'S SHORT TIME IN ECUADOR. ROAD IS VERY DIFFICULT AND AT TIMES DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF LANDSLIDES AND MUDSLIDES. IF GROUP COMES OVERLAND AND INCLUDES TRIP TO OIL FIELD, THAT WILL LEAVE ONE HALF-DAY FOR PROGRAMMING IN QUITO. IF OIL FIELD TRIP IS CANCELLED, GROUP WILL HAVE ONE DAY IN QUITO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONVEY OUR RECOMMENDATION TO CATES AND GIVE US HIS ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BREWSTER

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